

House Panel Divided Over Ford's Testimony

Washington

Declaring that President Ford's testimony yesterday concerning his pardon of Richard M. Nixon has raised doubts on the House Judiciary subcommittee that heard him said they would press for the calling of more witnesses.

In contrast, the four subcommittee Republicans said they are satisfied that the full story has been told and that there is no need to question additional witnesses.

Thus, it appeared that there would be a partisan clash within the nine-member subcommittee on criminal justice when Congress returns from an election recess in mid-November.

While not joining his four Democratic colleagues in

calling for additional witnesses, the subcommittee chairman, William L. Hungate of Missouri, indicated that he, too, feels that some further questions need to be answered.

There are several courses that the subcommittee could take when it returns.

It could vote to call other witnesses — possibly, congressional sources said, General Alexander M. Haig Jr., who was Mr. Nixon's chief of staff and the man who informed Mr. Ford in early August of damaging evidence against the then-President; Benton L. Becker, a Washington lawyer who negotiated an agreement giving Mr. Nixon custody of White House tape recordings, and Leon Jaworski, the special Watergate prosecutor.

Instead of hearing witnesses in person, the subcommittee could direct a full staff inquiry, involving questioning of persons who might shed some light on the tapes and pardon issues.

The authors of two resolutions of inquiry that brought Mr. Ford before the subcommittee — Bella S. Abzug of New York and Representative John Conyers Jr. of Michigan, both Democrats — said that they feel Mr. Ford's appearance before the subcommittee failed to answer satisfactorily the questions they have raised.

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